

7-10-1969

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, July 10-17, 1969

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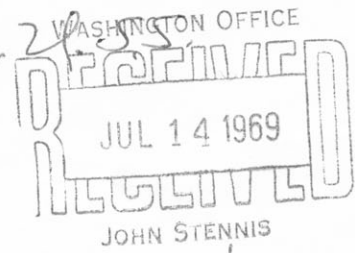
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Liberty, Miss.
7/10/69

Hon. John C. Stennis,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:



I urge you, in all seriousness, to "make a deal" with Pres. Nixon. Either he "calls off the dogs" on the school integration situation or you cease "knocking yourself out" for him to get the ABM system for defense passed by the U.S. Senate.

As Gov. ^{W.} Keith (La.) said last night on TV news "our little Southern Federal District judges get their orders weekly from the U.S. atty. Gen. telling them what orders to hand down on pending school cases. They're just rubber stamps."

Joining Gov. Lester Maddox (Ga.) urged every town & city in his state to start setting up private schools under the sponsorship of the churches rather than have the H.E.W. butane create ~~even~~ this latest scheme of mongrelizing, miscegenation, & amalgamation all at the expense of we Southern Whites.

2
If we (you & I) are going
to hand down a multibillion
heritage to our grandchildren
and all succeeding generations
then they would be better
off if they were destroyed
by Russian missiles.
Right now I'm sure
the majority of Southern Whites
are more concerned with
preserving racial (white) integrity
here in our Southland than
in adding future generations
with a multi-billion dollar
missile system that a majority
of the leading scientists say
is not needed.
Please don't make the mistake
that Rep. Jimmy Morrison (Dem. La.)
and Rep. Willis (Dem. La.) & Rep.
Frank Smith (ex. Dem. Miss.) made.
They concentrated on trying to
please only the Pres. (J.B.G.)
and forgot who elected them. They
became discredited by their elec-
torate & then jobless.
Please use your position as a
bargaining power for the people who
put you there. Respectfully,
[redacted]

I want to see the Southern Whites all together
and hand together and cause this infamous
minority to be disarming. Thank you.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 17, 1969

33-
29-Civil Rights
Schools

[REDACTED]
Rt. 1
Liberty, Mississippi 39645

Dear [REDACTED]:

I share your deep concern over the problems facing our schools in Mississippi.

I am greatly disappointed that the recent revision in the Guidelines did not go further. Frankly, in view of my repeated conferences with President Nixon, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Finch, and Attorney General Mitchell and others, I had expected more of a modification.

Still we must continue to pursue every course available to alleviate the present critical situation. Our public education system is at stake. If integration is pressed too rapidly, as is being done now, our public school system will ultimately be destroyed, leading to the abandonment in some areas of our State with tremendous loss to both our white and black citizens.

I do hope that the Civil Rights reformers who have done so much within HEW to bring about the present situation will be replaced by dedicated educators and the application of the Guidelines, but in the long-run I believe we will have to look to the courts for more understanding of the problems of education, the application of reasonable and workable Guidelines, and a better use of the discretion that is vested in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The latest rulings of the Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals have gone far beyond anything required or contemplated by the Constitution or by the law enacted by Congress.

I will leave no stone unturned in an effort to bring about a more practical approach to this problem. I am continuing to work for the appointment of practical, sensible men to fill the vacancies on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and to try to impress on the minds of the President and other officials here in Washington that we need some immediate relief before our public education system is

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destroyed; but as for making a "deal" with the President on the ABM and our schools, I feel it would be very irresponsible for me as a Mississippian ~~and~~ as a Senator to compromise the security of our Nation (possibly leaving us vulnerable to Communist take-over, which would put us in a position to have no schools to try to preserve) by making a highly questionable and only temporary "deal" regarding our schools. I do not think that you or any Mississippian want me to act in this unethical manner.

With best wishes and warm regards I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/ht

changed